

and Jefferson streets on the north side of East Main street have been burned to the water's edge.

Eight large business blocks have been destroyed and there is no hope of arresting the blaze, which is sweeping the city.

Explosions Are Feared.

The first sign of fire was in a row of frame buildings along Third street between Main and Jefferson streets, and near the library building. The point is two blocks south of the Phillips House and the flames appear to be working further south, toward the wholesale liquor district.

Fear is expressed that if the flames reach this point the inflammable fluids will cause explosions and probably further loss of life. Nearly eighty buildings in the business sections are filled with tenants who were shut off from escape by the rushing waters while engaged in their daily work.

12,000 Marooned in Buildings.

Twelve thousand persons are crowded in the upper floors of homes that are completely surrounded by water. They cannot obtain drinking water and they are entirely without heat, light and food. There is twenty square miles of water, with a current flowing too strong for any boat or any swimmer.

All the women and children who were in one burning block were removed to the Beaver Power Building. There were forty of them. Nearly twenty persons are housed in the Home Telephone Building, but they have rigged up a black and jack in case the fire forces them to get out.

In the north side the homeless are huddled in churches and public school buildings, many of which, surrounded by water, are in danger of collapsing. It is reported that three babies have been born in one church and one child came into the world in a boat while the mother was being conveyed to a place of safety.

Schools Near Collapse.

The school buildings in which the homeless have taken refuge are all reported to be in a dangerous condition. One large building, the largest in the city, in which are 600 men, women and children, is reported specially to be on the point of collapse.

The city is under martial law to-night. Notice was posted at the headquarters of the emergency committee this afternoon that the soldiers would be in command and several companies of militia have already worked their way in to take command. The soldiers are being employed to patrol the edge of the burned district to prevent looting of homes freed from the flood.

The soldiers showed their spirit this evening when a boat with six sightseers was discovered floating with the current. The boat was impounded at the point of a rifle and impressed for service. Investigators to-night report that six additional dead have been found.

While the rescuers were removing the bodies they found a number of persons weak from hunger and cold, and these have been taken to a place of safety. Oarsmen who have managed to get to the outskirts report that 250 persons are marooned in the "Y. M. C. A. Building" and 200 more in the Y. M. C. A. Building.

President George B. Smith of the Chamber of Commerce made his way out of the city this morning and sent an urgent appeal for help to Gov. Cox from Arcanum, a short distance out of the city.

The estimated number of dead in the city is now placed at 5,000.

Was Due to Reservoir's Collapse.

The severity of the flood that hit Dayton was due to the collapse of the Loraine reservoir in Shelby county about 7 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Rushing down the Miami Valley the water carried everything before it at Piqua, Troy, Sidney, Dayton, Carrollton, Miamisburg and Hamilton.

The extent of the loss of life in other cities in the valley cannot be estimated, as the same conditions prevail there as in Dayton.

Scenes of indescribable horror are reported by the rescuers under Adj.-Gen. George H. Wood. Among those who perished are said to have been ten members of the Ohio National Guard who were guarding the bridge.

One man marooned with his family on the roof of his home shot and killed his wife and three children and then himself rather than to suffer death in the flames, according to a report received by J. J. Munsell, employment superintendent of the National Cash Register Company, from a man who actually saw the occurrence. The bodies floated away on the flood.

Rescuers tried to get a raft that bore a man and four women that whirled like a spool in the rapid waters. They suddenly the raft was sucked up in the darkness and another chapter was added to the tragic drama that now exists as to the number that died.

Woman Leaps With Baby.

George H. Schaefer, a rescuer who went out into the flood with a skiff and saved a woman and baby, told of his perilous trip this afternoon.

"A house that had been torn from its foundation came floating up behind us," said Schaefer. "The woman was frightened. I told her there was no danger."

"Suddenly she stood up and jumped over with her baby in her arms. She went straight down and never came up again."

Then there was the horror that William Riley, a salesman for the National Cash Register Company, saw.

"We saw a very old woman standing at the window of a house waiting for rescue," said Riley. "We rowed up to her. Suddenly the house parted and the woman was engulfed. It was the last we saw of her."

There was the man who was nearly rescued. He had crawled into the skiff and then walked back into his home, which a short time later floated away with him. Incidents of this sort were multiplied.

And the story of the negro mother who was being rowed to safety with her two babies when the skiff struck a tree and the little craft capsized, so that the babies were drowned and the mother rescued by Robert Burnham, the owner of the skiff, only to die before she reached the hospital.

John Scott ascended a telegraph pole and guided across the cable to places of safety men, women and children rescued from flooded homes.

Scott had guided a dozen persons across the burning bridges and wires when the explosion that started the fire occurred. The shock knocked Scott from the pole and he fell into a tree.

"The last I saw of him he was trying to get into the window of an abandoned house by way of one of the branches of the tree," said Frank Stevens, a fel-

Buy United States Tires

They cut down
tire bills.

low employee of Scott. "The house was in the path of the fire."

Girl in Man's Clothing.

"What is your name?" asked the registrars who received the refugees at the National Cash Register plant of a slender young person in men's clothes.

"Nora Thuma," was the reply.

"Nora?" they asked.

"Yes, I'm a girl," was the answer.

She had put on a man's suit in order to cross the perilous span of wires unhampered by skirts.

She came in with Ralph Myers, his wife and their little baby. Myers had climbed a telephone wire pole first. He

let down a rope to his wife, who tied to it a meal sack, which contained their baby, three months old.

Myers pulled the rope with its precious burden up and then let it down again to aid his wife to ascend.

With the meal sack over his shoulder and his wife holding on to the two wires he walked along the cable a full block before he reached safety.

FIRE SPREADING IN DAYTON.

12,000 Who Sought Refuge in Tall Buildings Are in Danger.

TOLEDO, Ohio, March 26.—Flood-stricken Dayton is threatened with a new danger. Fire has broken out in the buildings on Broad street and many who have taken refuge in the upper floors are threatened with death in the smoke and flames.

It was reported to Gov. Cox that some had leaped from the buildings into the flood. The Governor received word via Springfield that 10,000 to 12,000 persons were in the burning buildings, fighting the fire by water lifted in buckets from the flood.

Gov. Cox received word via Springfield from Edward Hanley that he estimated the loss of life at 3:30 at not more than 3,000.

The Beckel Hotel at Dayton caught fire at noon and a hard fight with the aid of chemical extinguishers and the flood water was being made by the employees and guests to conquer the flames.

Gov. Cox, following the information that Dayton was on fire and that those who had sought refuge in the upper stories of buildings were in danger, determined at 6 o'clock to reach Dayton with troops and assistance.

Relief Expedition to Start.

The latest plan was to start a train from Columbus at 4:30, go to Cleveland, then to Toledo, and try to get to Piqua or Troy from Toledo.

At Troy the Governor expected to get boats and send militia officers into Dayton from there.

Gov. Cox now places the homeless in this State at 250,000. All the State militia has been called out and is being rushed to flood districts.

The heavy rain of Monday and Tuesday, coupled with a wall of water sent rushing down the Great Miami River from the Lewiston reservoir in Logan county, was responsible for the Dayton disaster.

A man marooned with his family on the roof of his home shot and killed his wife and three children and then himself rather than to suffer death in the flames, according to a report received by J. J. Munsell, employment superintendent of the National Cash Register Company, from a man who actually saw the occurrence. The bodies floated away on the flood.

There may be a hundred dead or a thousand. The census of the dead cannot be taken until the water recedes and leaves its prey behind.

Whirlpool Is Mile Wide.

Between the city and safety there is a whirlpool. Only a mile intervenes, but it might be 1,000 miles or 5,000, for no word of what has happened beyond the whirlpool since noon of Tuesday has come across the brief mile of water.

Centre of City Inundated.

It is known only that the big hotels are crowded with guests and are under water, the theatres are flooded, the

wares of the department stores are floating away.

The very centre of the city is inundated, the fashionable churches are awash inside and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, with 600 patients, is imprisoned in the floods.

All telephone communication has been cut off and none beyond the flood zone knows what disaster has overtaken that part of Dayton which was the centre of its enormous wealth. There was nothing but the sullen glare of the flames last night to light up the tragedy and its mysteries.

After a night of terror that part of Dayton which had homes to sleep in awoke to-day with heartbreaks. The flames last night showed men, women and children perched on the roofs of houses in the path of the flames waiting helplessly for the flames to devour them.

Men ventured out into the tumultuous stream in small boats and rescued some. Under the leadership of Frederick Patterson, son of John H. Patterson of the National Cash Register Company, a rank of men chopped a hole through a roof in the flood and fire district and saved a family of three. They tried to get to a raft that bore a man and four women and whirled like a spool in the rapid waters, when the raft was suddenly sucked up in darkness.

STRICKEN DISTRICTS CUT OFF.

Area Devastated Is Ohio's Richest and Most Populous.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 26.—Draw a line to the south and east from Cleveland to Columbus, diverge sharply to the west to Dayton and then drop down to Cincinnati almost directly south and

you have covered an area, the richest and most populous of the State, an area of devastation by flood and fire.

More than 5,000 men and women may be dead in the scores of large cities and small towns along the Miami, Scioto, Mad and other small rivers to-night, but Cleveland cannot obtain definite information, although every possible resource that human ingenuity can devise is being employed.

A score of small towns may be in flames, Cleveland has only rumors to tell; the property loss may amount to more than \$5,000,000, but no one here can tell to-night, and there may be hundreds and hundreds and thousands suffering for want of food—there are only fragmentary reports to tell.

All Telegraph Wires Down.

The great area which has been transformed into a great theatre of death is, so far as definite information is concerned, as far away to-night as a European country. The telegraph wires are down and only an occasional telephone wire can be made to carry the human voice.

All railroads are out of commission. County roads, except those on the highest ridges, are impassable for anything except the sturdiest of slow horses and certainly barred to automobiles. It is absolutely impossible to give any satisfactory definite estimate of what has been done.

Need of Food Is Pressing.

Food is the great cry at Dayton, according to every word received to-night. Food must reach those thousands of homeless men and women by to-morrow, and in Cleveland to-night they are making ready to get it there, all that Cleveland has to spare, all that the outside world will send it to be forwarded.

Gov. Cox is at Columbus, preparing to start for Dayton and the word comes from here that more than 200 may be dead in Columbus, while the Scioto River was reported to be rising.

The estimates of the dead are based upon the reports of rescuers who late this afternoon could count bodies by the score lodged in the flooded districts.

Two bodies actually have been rescued, an aged man and a woman, and the man had a bullet hole through his forehead, showing that in the horror he had committed suicide.

The city is on the verge of a panic although the greater part of the city is safe. An instance of this came this afternoon at 4 o'clock when a report spread that the big storage dam north of the city had given away.

Thousands were in the street in an instant, rushing pell-mell, knocking each other down, crawling over one

another in haste to reach the higher parts of the city.

Dam Is Thirty-two Feet High.

There has been no verification of this report received at Cleveland. The dam is a thirty-two foot high wall to retain water six miles northwest of the city. Ten feet of water had been reported flowing over the breast of the dam during the day.

Columbus is making every preparation for any emergency. Gov. Cox, who has not been to bed for forty-eight hours, asked this afternoon that all West Virginia points be notified to shut off the natural gas supply for fear of broken gas mains. He also signed the bill which releases \$250,000 at once for relief of the sufferers.

News From Small Towns Is Vague.

When the smaller towns are reached there are only the vaguest reports. Troy, Carrollton, Miamisburg and a dozen small towns in the Miami Valley are said to be under water with many dead. How many dead no one can now learn.

Delaware, Ohio, reports thirty-two dead—that is, known to be dead—with more missing. The property loss is \$1,000,000 or more.

This news was brought here by Hayes Main, a Delaware resident, who crawled to the east side of the river this morning on the remaining strand of a bridge cable. He said that among the dead were Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Melching and their seven children. The entire family, caught by the rushing water, was drowned with the exception of a young daughter, who was rescued, but who died soon after. Hayes Main, the man who made his way out of the city, said that 1,000 persons are homeless in Delaware.

1,000 REPORTED DEAD IN INDIANA CITIES

Hundreds Perish at Peru, Where People Cling to Roofs.

INDIANAPOLIS IS SPLIT

White River Cuts Off Western Part of Town—200 Perish There.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 26.—The best information obtainable up to 11 o'clock to-night is that upward of 1,000 persons have perished in the floods that have submerged Indiana cities in the White, Wabash, Whitewater, Miami and Ohio River valleys.

No one can approximate the property damage, but millions of dollars will be required to repair the losses caused by storm and flood.

Owing to the wrecking of telegraph and telephone lines and the inability of the companies to handle the press despatches on the few wires that are needed for Government and personal messages

Reports received here say that twelve bodies were recovered from one house in Peru. Logansport is under twelve feet of water. Other dispatches say that the towns of Metamora, Cedar Grove and Trenton have been destroyed.

There are three great flood districts in the State. These are the valleys of the Wabash, the White and the Whitewater rivers. All the news indicates that the three rivers rose with great suddenness and overwhelmed towns that were built upon flat ground.

Conditions in this city are almost indescribable. Gov. Ralston visited the districts that have suffered most, going from place to place in rowboat or motor boat. The Governor has received a message from Secretary of War Garrison offering help, but the Governor replied that Indiana would not ask outside assistance until it was shown that the catastrophe is too big for local handling.

There is no street car service in this city and the steam traffic is utterly suspended. Hospital facilities are taxed by the demands of the hour. Hundreds are suffering from exposure. At least 500 were rescued from West Indianapolis to-day just in time to save their lives.

Indiana University will not be able to open for the spring term until railroad service can be established. The Monon and Big Four railroads are under water. President Bryan of the university made the announcement to-day.

The latest news from Peru to-night was that 10,000 people are in the utmost need of assistance. A citizens' committee has been organized and is doing what it can to relieve conditions. In Peru alone the property damage is at least \$2,500,000.

In Indianapolis conditions are the worse ever experienced from flood. The White River, ordinarily a shallow, un-navigable stream at this point, left its banks, cut West Indianapolis from the main city, swept through half a dozen small towns and villages and left 10,000 people destitute.

The bridge over the White River in West Washington street was torn from its abutments this morning. The Morris street levee gave way. There was a rush of waters that caused the death of perhaps 200. Most of those who were drowned lived in one-story houses. They had relied on the protection of the levee. When the levee occurred they were overwhelmed.

Police and firemen have been tried over to West Indianapolis and great quantities of provisions have been sent there by order of the Mayor. All along Fall Creek and other tributaries of the White River conditions are bad.

Ravage at Brookville.

By interurban phone it is learned that the ravage of the White River brought death and destruction to Brookville, in Franklin county. The death list there may reach fifty. The two forks of the river diverge in Brookville. When a rush of waters came from the north, the town was submerged almost instantly. Houses were carried away. Numerous bodies have been seen floating in the stream. Villages near Brookville suffered heavily.

In Richmond, many persons are homeless, but no loss of life has been reported. At Terre Haute railroad traffic is paralyzed and there is much suffering. Logansport is isolated. Houses have been torn loose there and it is reported that ten are dead. There are similar reports from Newcastle, Rushville, Kokomo, Shelbyville, Marion, Elwood and Anderson. Most of these places are partly under water.

In this city alone the property damage is estimated at \$2,000,000. Unquestionably the property loss throughout the State will reach \$20,000,000. Rain is still general over the State after sixty hours of steady downpour. The floods have not yet reached their crest, although the peril from bursting dams and caving levees is over.

Reports from cities and towns along the Ohio River indicate that no fears are entertained in these places as yet. The Ohio is rising rapidly, but is still below flood stage. The greatest stage of water ever known in the Ohio was 70 feet at Cincinnati in 1854. Fifty feet is flood stage.

Gov. Ralston and the State authorities fear that famine and disease will follow the floods. Preparations are being made to send doctors, nurses, medical supplies and food to the districts that have suffered most.

SMITH HURRIES TO DAYTON.

Vice-President of the New York Central Laments Delay Here.

Vice-President Alfred H. Smith of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad waited with some impatience for the Royal Mail liner Arcadian, yesterday from Bermuda, to reach her pier at the foot of Morton street, North River.

The ship had crept up to Quarantine through a fog that sometimes was so dense that she was forced to stop while her skipper and her pilot waited on the problem of her proper course. After she cleared Quarantine she had a time coming up the upper bay and the North River, which were crowded with a heavy vapor that was the result of a warm breeze from the southward blowing on the cold surface of the water.

The vapor did not rise much higher than the main deck, but it obscured every small craft that might be in the course of the liner and she had to proceed cautiously and merely with steerage way.

Mr. Smith did not like the progress

he was making, as he knew that a special was waiting for him at the Grand Central Station to take him to the neighborhood of Dayton, Ohio, to direct the work of the railroad men in the rehabilitation of things wrecked in the floods. Mr. Smith, besides being vice-president of the railroad, is in charge of the operating department. He had received a wireless notifying him of the havoc wrought along the New York Central lines and its branches and he was the only man aboard the ship who knew of the disaster before the Arcadian got to Quarantine, as she had received no wireless news of it.

It was late in the afternoon when the Arcadian got to her dock and she found it blocked by barges and other river craft. While she was maneuvering to work her way into her berth the strong tide took charge of her and she ran diagonally across the end of the pier. She stuck there and the impatience of Vice-President Smith increased. Mr. Pollock, the foreign freight manager of the New York Central, was on the pier waiting to take Mr. Smith to an automobile and whisk him to the Grand Central Station and the two greeted each other, lamenting the plight of the liner.

The pier superintendent solved the problem of getting Mr. Smith on his way by bringing down to the end of the pier a 75 foot ladder, which five men put up against the high side of the Arcadian. The five held the ladder while Mr. Smith came down it, jumped into the automobile and was rushed to the Grand Central Station.

He left all his baggage in charge of his valet, who came off the ship an hour and a half later, when she docked.

MEXICO PASSES AMNESTY BILL.

Property of Contributors to Rebel Cause to Be Confiscated.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Despatches to the State Department say that the Mexican Congress has passed a general amnesty bill, by which all persons who have taken part in the rebellion are forgiven and all property owned by persons contributing to the rebel cause.

The defeat of Carranzista rebels by Federal troops near Paredon, Mexico, two days ago is reported. The total killed in the two days' fighting is said to have been about 100. The rebels split into two bands, one retreating north and the other south.

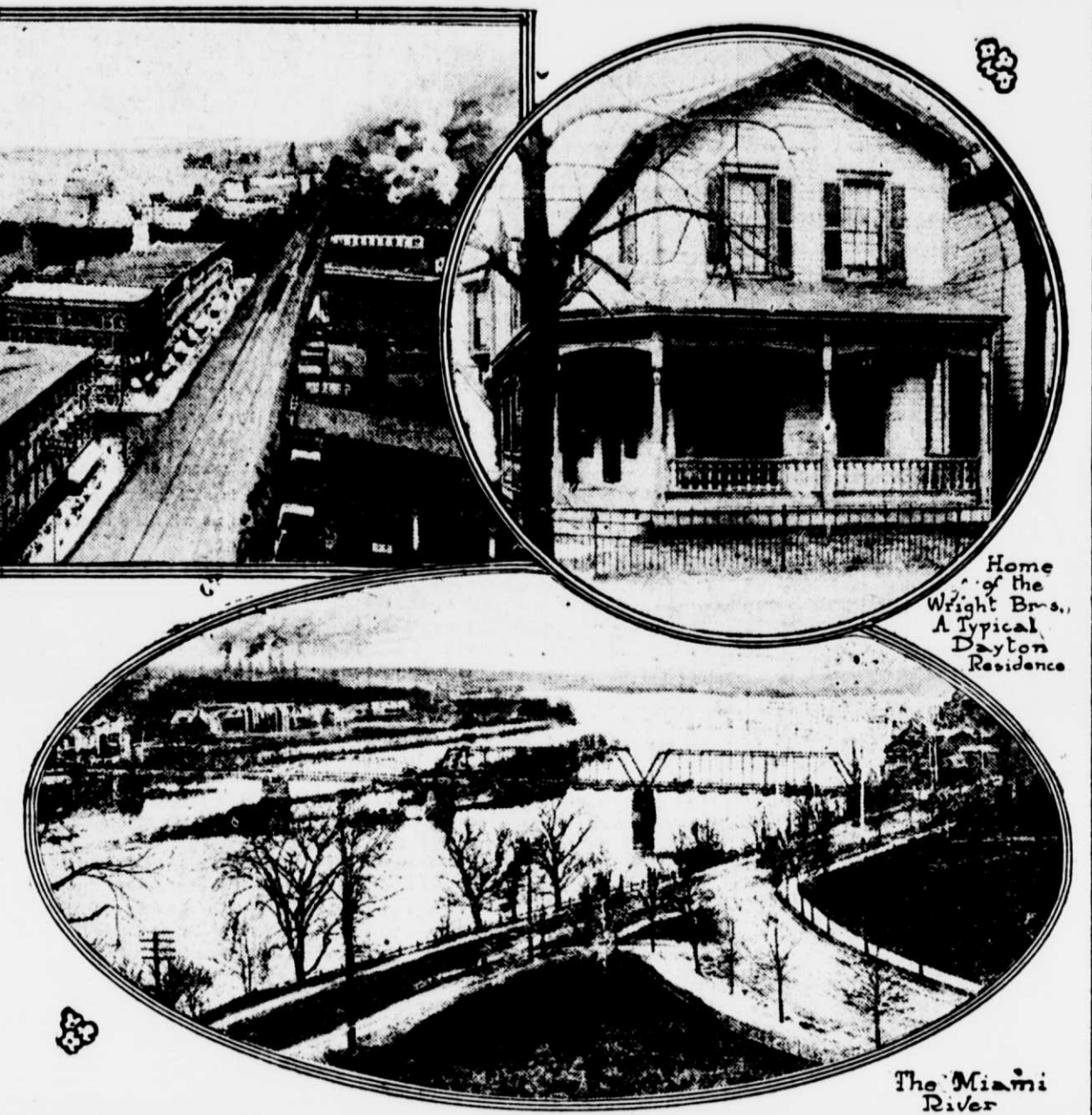
It is reported from Juarez that Gen. Inez Salazar is to join the Government forces.

In Durango conditions are reported unsettled. Revolutionists now possess San Juan del Rio, San Lucas and Rodeo. Col. Hernandez, the Federal commander, is reported to be retreating. Several Federal garrisons in Durango are said to be in danger of the rebels.

Communication by rail and telegraph is still demoralized throughout northern Mexico. In the south conditions are more quiet.

Samuel Kramer Not Killed.

Samuel Kramer, a son of Jacob K. Kramer of 145 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, was not killed in the tornado at Omaha, Neb., on Sunday, as reported in a despatch received by the family on Tuesday. Mrs. Kramer yesterday received word from her brother, Louis Berman of Chicago, that Samuel had escaped injury and that the despatch concerning his name was a mistake.



Home of the Wright Bros. A Typical Dayton Residence

The Miami River

ware. They are cooped up in schools and churches and they are hungry.

2,000 Homeless in Zanesville.

There are 2,000 homeless in Zanesville to-night according to the fragmentary reports. The Muskingum River is flowing through the streets. The bridges went out this morning. How many are dead is not known.

Lima, Ohio, is flooded by the Ottawa River, but what the damage is, how many are dead, how many are homeless is not known. The cities of West Liberty and Springfield, Ohio, are under water from the rise of the Mad River. Houses have been washed away there and people are homeless, so much is known, but only a courier can tell the news.

This the roll runs all the way down to Cincinnati, following the winding courses of the little rivers, jumping from east to west. The little rivers have been the dangerous rivers, and those who lived in safety along them are the ones who suffered.

The State of Ohio is doing all that it can, but it must act as the world would have acted a hundred years ago. Twenty thousand soldiers' tents have been released for use of the sufferers, but they must be carried by wagon or hand.

Every militiaman in the State is on duty, but he must march to his destination foot through floodswep districts in blinding rains.

It is reported from all telegraph and telephone offices that men are at work to-night trying to repair wires. It is hoped that to-morrow may bring definite news. It is hoped also that to-morrow may see some way devised whereby bread can be rushed into the stricken territory. That is the most important of all tasks.

LEWIS AND SHERMAN ELECTED.

Senate Roster Now Full With New Illinois Members.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 26.—Col. James Hamilton Lewis, Democrat, and Lawrence Y. Sherman, Republican, were elected to the United States Senate from this State to-day.

Seventy Democrats and sixty Republicans voted for Lewis for the long term, and for Sherman for the short term.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—By the election of two Senators from Illinois to-day the Senate roster is now full for the first time in many months. In the Senate the Democrats now number 65-50, or a majority over all opposition of six.

The opposition is composed of forty-five Senators, of whom one at least, Senator Pollock of Washington, will announce himself a Progressive, while Senators Blawie, Clapp and Norris are Independent.

Several Senators, classed as Republicans are progressive. Republicans who have voted with the Democrats on many questions.

The Democrats feel certain of a working majority on tariff and currency legislation.

ror; that hundreds huddled on roof tops in the cold all night, not daring to move.

Reports received here say that twelve bodies were recovered from one house in Peru. Logansport is under twelve feet of water. Other dispatches say that the towns of Metamora, Cedar Grove and Trenton have been destroyed.

There are three great flood districts in the State. These are the valleys of the Wabash, the White and the Whitewater rivers. All the news indicates that the three rivers rose with great suddenness and overwhelmed towns that were built upon flat ground.

Conditions in this city are almost indescribable. Gov. Ralston visited the districts that have suffered most, going from place to place in rowboat or motor boat. The Governor has received a message from Secretary of War Garrison offering help, but the Governor replied that Indiana would not ask outside assistance until it was shown that the catastrophe is too big for local handling.

There is no street car service in this city and the steam traffic is utterly suspended. Hospital facilities are taxed by the demands of the hour. Hundreds are suffering from exposure. At least 500 were rescued from West Indianapolis to-day just in time to save their lives.

Indiana University will not be able to open for the spring term until railroad service can be established. The Monon and Big Four railroads are under water. President Bryan of the university made the announcement to-day.

The latest news from Peru to-night was that 10,000 people are in the utmost need of assistance. A citizens' committee has been organized and is doing what it can to relieve conditions. In Peru alone the property damage is at least \$2,500,000.

In Indianapolis conditions are the worse ever experienced from flood. The White River, ordinarily a shallow, un-navigable stream at this point, left its banks, cut West Indianapolis from the main city, swept through half a dozen small towns and villages and left 10,000 people destitute.

The bridge over the White River in West Washington street was torn from its abutments this morning. The Morris street levee gave way. There was a rush of waters that caused the death of perhaps 200. Most of those who were drowned lived in one-story houses. They had relied on the protection of the levee. When the levee occurred they were overwhelmed.

Police and firemen have been tried over to West Indianapolis and great quantities of provisions have been sent there by order of the Mayor. All along Fall Creek and other tributaries of the White River conditions are bad.

Ravage at Brookville.